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Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R007100650005-1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

29 MAR 51

SUBJECT Unrest in the Oil Fields

CONFIDENTIAL

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1A

[redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

[redacted]

1. It is reported that a handbill was circulated during the week of 11 February 1951 at La Concencion, State of Zulia, Venezuela, directed to members of the Partido Comunista de Venezuela (PCV). The leaflet, which was signed by Juan Bautista Fuenmayor, directed Party members to infiltrate any labor groups now existing and participating in the contract negotiations. The handbill was circulated among Party members only and carried instructions that they should pass the message on orally. The handbill also carried an attack on Accion Democratica (AD).

2. Arrests are reported in various of the oil-field areas during the period 11 to 19 February. At Palmarejo a clandestine radio set reportedly operated by AD members was seized and several persons detained. The set was located outside of the oil-camp area, and the persons involved were not workers. At Mene Grande and Bachaquero, the Guardia Nacional (GN) arrested five workers. The GN force at Mene Grande has been increased.

3. Commissary sales in some Zulia oil camps were reported much higher than usual on 17 and 19 February. Normal sales occurred on 15 and 16 February following pay-day, but the sales on the next two days were over and above the usual mid-month buying. Such purchases have always been regarded as an indication that workers expect a strike or a situation which would result in the stores being closed as a repressive measure.

4. In eastern Venezuela, GN and Seguridad Nacional officials have been searching areas near San Tome and Carinito for several exiled AD leaders who are rumored to have returned to Venezuela and who may be in hiding there. Searches began on 18 February and were continuing on 20 February.

Document No: 05
No Change in Class. ☐
☒ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth.: HR 70-2
Date: 25/07/78 By: 029

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 19 October [illegible] Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United [illegible]

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